

0100 '00 OCT 27 AIO :40 32 Sylvan Avenue  
Chelmsford, MA  
October 20, 2000

U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
Dockets Management Branch  
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20785

To Members of the Dockets Management Branch:

I am writing to urge that you grant the petition of the Farm Sanctuary organization to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals-docket number 98P-0151/CP1.

Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. Downed animals make up a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship.

Industry experts have estimated that 90 % of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Taking away the market for downed animals will provide an incentive for the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

In addition to making an increased risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy), a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease).

It is practically impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors

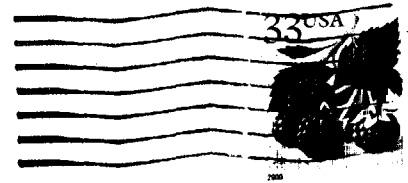
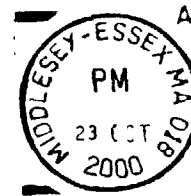
or dragged with chains-inhumane processes which cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments.

Please grant this petition. The animals need your help, and it is in the best interest of human health as well. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Ruth Irvin*  
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32 Sylvan Ave.  
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